Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of June 16, 2003 to June 20, 2003

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Wholesale Trade ($ millions)	April			Alberta's wholesale trade decreased by 2.8% in April, but was up 6.1% from the same period last year. Across Canada, wholesale trade was down 1.1% on a monthly basis, but up 3.2% from April 2002 levels. Leading nationally in monthly sales declines were the metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies sector (-5.5%), the motor vehicles, parts and accessories sector (-4.2%), and the farm machinery, equipment and supplies sector (-3.3%). Increases in the computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery sector (+1.6%), the lumber and building materials sector (+1.5%), and the apparel and dry goods sector (+1.3%) offset some of the decrease.
Alberta	3,669	-2.8%	6.1%	
Canada	35,920	-1.1%	3.2%	
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	May			Canada's annual inflation rate edged up 0.1% in May to 2.9% annually. A tapering-off of refunds received by Ontario electricity consumers, as well as rising cigarette prices (+1.6%) and traveller accommodation prices (+6.2%) contributed to the monthly increase. Falling gasoline prices (-6.9%) and natural gas prices (-8.7%) slowed down the increase in the index. The CPI in Alberta finished May at 4.8% annually, down from an annual rate of 5.9% in April.
Alberta	129.4	-0.6%	4.8%	
Canada	122.0	0.1%	2.9%	
U.S. Consumer Price Index (1982-84=100)	May			The U.S. consumer price index was unchanged in May at 183.4, following a 0.3% decline in April. Energy product prices fell for the second consecutive month (-3.1%), after rising sharply in the first three months of the year. Counteracting the monthly decrease in energy prices, the index for food rose and the index for all items less food and energy each increased 0.3%.
All Urban Consumers	183.5	0.0%	2.1%	